

REMARKS

Claims 1, 16, 17 and 19 have been amended to clarify the invention. Claims 20-26 have been newly added.

Claims 1-3 and 16-26 are thus pending in the application.

In the Examiner's Interview on September 15, 2004, the claims were distinguished over Tani et al. by defining the maximum exposure period for a charge coupled device and not a shutter speed. The Examiner suggested that claim 1 should be amended to clarify the maximum exposure period. As provided above and consistent with the Examiner's suggestion, claim 1 has been amended to clarify the invention. Claims 20-26 are newly added method claims that encompass the claimed invention as set forth in claims 1-3 and 16-19.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. Early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

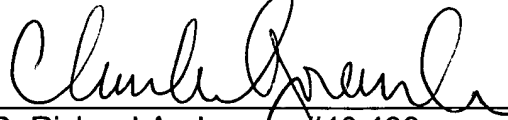
Conclusion


Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Demetra R. Smith-Stewart (Reg. No. 47,354) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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